



CITIZENS INVITED TO COMMENT ON REDISTRICTING PROPOSAL

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April 5, 2011

Montgomery County, Virginia – The Board of Supervisors will hold an informal open house at 6 p.m. and a public hearing at 7:15 p.m. on a redistricting proposal on April 25. The meetings will be held at the Government Center, 755 Roanoke St., Christiansburg.

The Board is tentatively scheduled to adopt a redistricting plan at its adjourned meeting following the public hearing on April 25 at 7:15 p.m. The proposed districts add residents to Districts A, C, E, F and G, and make no change to District D. There are approximately 2,100 residents removed from District B. In District E, a third precinct is added at the Virginia Tech-Montgomery Executive Airport to relieve overcrowding conditions at the current St. Michael's Church polling location.

Every 10 years, Montgomery County must redraw its electoral boundaries based on the population count by the U.S. Census.

There are a number of legal criteria that any redistricting plan must meet, and the plan that is adopted by the Board of Supervisors also must be approved by the U.S. Justice Department. The basic requirements that any redistricting plan must satisfy:

Equal Representation: As nearly as possible, electoral districts must meet state and federal “one person, one vote” requirements. Based on the County’s 2010 population, the population of each of the County’s seven districts must be approximately 13,485 persons.

Contiguous, Compact Districts: The state constitution says that election districts “shall be composed of contiguous and compact territory.”

Traditional Redistricting Principles: The U.S. Supreme Court considers the following as traditional principles, and plans must make a good-faith effort to follow them:

- Compactness
- Contiguity
- Preservation of political boundaries
- Preservation of communities of interest
- Preservation of cores of prior districts
- Protection of incumbents

In addition to these three principle requirements, any redistricting plan must comply with the Voting Rights Act of 1965. This act prohibits discriminating against the voting rights of racial or language minorities, and it requires the U.S. Department of Justice to approve Montgomery County’s redistricting plan. Once the redistricting plan is approved, the new plan will be the basis for future elections. **For more information and to view current and proposed district maps, please visit www.montgomerycountyva.gov.**

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